Rice University HIST 596 Spring 2021

- Port Cities of the Atlantic World -

- A Humanities "Design" Studio -

Contact Information

Instructor: Alida Metcalf

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Office Hours: By Appointment

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

This is a research seminar on the economic, social, and spatial characteristics of Atlantic World port cities. Students will research and write a seminar paper on the port city of their choice. At the same time, the course is a design studio focussing on Digital and Spatial Humanities. Throughout the semester special attention will be given to digital research platforms increasingly used by historians, such as Zotero, Tropy, Omeka, digital libraries, and digital databases. Students will participate in the development of the Special Collections App, which is a platform designed at Rice University by the instructors that offers humanities scholars new ways of conceptualizing, viewing, and interpreting their research.

Course Expectations

Participation is expected at every class.

Collegiality depends on respect. Please promote our conversation and learning by carefully listening to one another as well as by participating in our discussion.

Late Work is not acceptable. Please abide by all deadlines set by the instructors.

Standards are high. If you have questions, please bring them up in class, or individually with the instructors.

Rice Honor Code

All students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, please consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

Grades

DH Assignments	(25% of final grade)
Final Paper	(50% of final grade)
Final Presentation	(25% of final grade)

Absence Policy

Absences from our weekly seminar are not permitted except due to illness, family emergency, or religious obligation. Please clear any absence with the professor before or immediately after the missed class.

Office Hours

By appointment: **acm5@rice.edu; jcm10@rice.edu@rice.edu**

Disability Support Services

If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance please make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841). This office will determine the accommodations you need; and you must discuss your accommodation with me.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a carefully thought out guide for the course. Sometimes modifications have to be made. The syllabus is subject to change with advanced notice.

Books to Purchase

Cañizares-Esguerra, Childs, and Sidbury, *The Urban Black Atlantic* and three others of your choice, selected from the course bibliography.

Note: no books have been ordered from the bookstore; please find your own copies to purchase.

Course Schedule

Week 1: January 29, 2021

Introduction: Why study the Port Cities of the Atlantic World in a Humanities Design Studio?

Before coming to class, please download and set up an individual Zotero account on your computer. Rice has free storage with your Rice id. See the DMC Handout for information on how to download Zotero:

https://wiki.rice.edu/confluence/download/attachments/17750487/zotero5-jz.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1600126401264&api=v2

Zotero is your citation machine

In class we will:

- Set up a group Zotero library
- Set up how you can take notes in Zotero that can be uploaded to Omeka S
- Review how to add pdfs to Zotero.
- Set up Zotfile, an extension that allows you to extract notes from pdfs in Zotero
- Learn how to automatically transfer your underlined pdfs into notes in Zotero

Week 2: February 5, 2021

Topic: Defining the Atlantic World

Reading: Selections from *The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World.*

Locate from Fondren Library Website:

Databases → A-Z Databases → Oxford Handbooks Online—History

Read:

- Canny and Morgan, "The Making and Unmaking of an Atlantic World"
- Northrup, "Africans, Early European Contacts, and the Emergent Diaspora"
- Whitehead, "Native Americans and Europeans: Early Encounters in the Caribbean and along the Atlantic Coast"
- Edney, "Knowledge and Cartography in the Early Atlantic"
- Rodger, "Atlantic Seafaring"
- Schwartz, "The Iberian Atlantic"
- Klooster, "The Northern European Atlantic World"

Pre-class DH Assignment: Export your highlights into your personal Zotero library and export a clean, authoritative version of your assigned article(s) to the Group Library.

Instead of class, we will attend the Rice Unicamp Mora Seminar panel on Methodology Panel at 1 pm. At 4 pm please attend the workshop: OCR and Archival Scanning at 4 pm.

Registration is required. Register here:

[passcode: seminar1]

Week 3: February 12, 2021

Topic: Historiography of port cities in the Atlantic World

Reading:

- Cañizares-Esguerra, Childs, Sidbury, *The Urban Black Atlantic,* Introduction and two chapters of your choice.
- Price, Jacob. "Economic Function and the Growth of American Port Towns in the Eighteenth Century." *Perspectives in American History* 8 (1974): 121-186. Upload your pdf into your personal Zotero from an academic database, such as JSTOR.
- Liss, Peggy and Franklin Knight. *Atlantic Port Cities: Economy, Culture, and Society in the Atlantic World, 1650-1850.* Introduction and two chapters of your choice.

James Smithies, *The Digital Humanities and the Digital Modern*, selections (Ch. 1, pp. 1-9, Ch. 2, pp. 20-35; Zotero).

Yuk Hui, *On the Existence of Digital Objects*, selections (Zotero).

Pre-class Writing Assignment: Paragraph-long summaries of arguments of each chapter in Zotero. Transfer your underlined annotations from the Price pdf automatically into notes into your personal Zotero. Export a clean, authoritative version of your assigned article(s) to the Group Library.

Webinar:

Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, "Indigenous commoners and slaves: paperwork, emancipation, property, and social mobility in the 16th-century Spanish Empire" **Thursday February 11th at 4 pm. Requires registration. Register here: [no passcode needed].**

Design Studio: Omeka Ontology

Omeka is your data machine.

Week 4: February 19, 2021

Topic: Historical Maps and Mapping Historical Information

Reading: "Mapping Civil War Narratives" an Esri Story Map produced by the Woodson Center at Rice (lead author was Ph.D. student Christina Regeleski Gomes: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b3b82f0369994442b3a6fa86c0ff5a20

Look also at how the Esri Story Map is hosted on an Omeka site:

https://digitalprojects.rice.edu/wrc/civilwarnarratives/story-map

Research: Find two historical maps that relate to your port city or to an Atlantic World theme that interests you. Be sure that the maps are in high resolution.

Try:

- Old Maps Online: https://www.oldmapsonline.org/
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection: https://www.davidrumsey.com/
- Geography and Map Collections Online, Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/maps/
- Perry-Castañeda Map Collection, UT Austin: https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/
- British Library Maps: https://www.bl.uk/subjects/maps#
- Bibliothèque Nationale de France https://catalogue.bnf.fr/index.do
- Digital Library of the Caribbean, Map Collection https://www.dloc.com/mapcar
- John Carter Brown Library: https://jcblibrary.org/collection/digital-images

Pre-class DH Assignment:

- Add your two maps to Zotero with correct bibliographic information.
- Upload the map images into Omeka

Set up free account with airtable; I will send you an invitation.

Class: What is GIS and what can it do for historians?

Special Guest: Dr. Christina Regeleski Gomes

Special Guest GIS Support Specialist Jean Aroom

After class writing: two paragraphs on

1. your thoughts on what kind of information you would like to map
2. your thoughts on how a spatial narrative could be constructed from the information you collected and mapped

Week 5: February 26, 2021

Topic: Our Port Cities

Reading: One of the books from one of the sections on the Course Bibliography

Pre-class Writing: historiographical summary of book in Zotero;

Pre-class Research: notes of research interest in Zotero;

Class Discussion: sharing of arguments, approaches, characteristics of the different readings.

Design Studio: Zotero Importing into Omeka-S

Week 6: March 5, 2021

Topic: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

SlaveVoyages: http://www.slavevoyages.org/

Read: From the section TransAtlantic: “Understanding the database”

David Eltis, “Methodology”

https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/about#methodology/introduction/0/en/

- Introduction
- Coverage of the Slave Trade
- Nature of Sources
- Cases and Variables
- Data Variables
- Imputed Variables

Read: From the section TransAtlantic: “Understanding the database”

- David Eltis, “A Brief Overview of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade”

  https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/essays#interpretation/a-brief-overview-of-the-trans-atlantic-slave-trade/introduction/0/en/

- Timeline and Chronology

  https://www.slavevoyages.org/assessment/estimates?selected_tab=timeline

- “Estimates”

  https://www.slavevoyages.org/assessment/estimates

- “Introductory Maps” https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/maps#introductory-

- Slave Ship in 3D Video

  https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/ship#slave-

And

Kelley, Sean. “DB or Not DB: Writing the History of the Slave Trade to North America in the Era of the Database.” *History compass* 17.5 (2019)

https://doi-org.ezproxy.rice.edu/10.1111/hic3.12530

Plus one of the following articles:

Lovejoy, Paul E. 2010. "The Upper Guinea Coast and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database." *African Economic History* 38, 1–27. http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.rice.edu/stable/41756129.

Vos, Jelmer. 2010. "The Slave Trade from the Windward Coast: The Case of the Dutch, 1740-1805." *African Economic History* 38, 29–51. http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.rice.edu/stable/41756130.

da Silva, Filipa Ribeiro, and Stacey Sommerdyk. 2010. "Reexamining the Geography and Merchants of the West Central African Slave Trade: Looking Behind the Numbers." *African Economic History* 38, 77–105. http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.rice.edu/stable/41756132.

Radburn, Nicholas. 2015. "Guinea Factors, Slave Sales, and the Profits of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in Late Eighteenth-century Jamaica: The Case of John Tailyour." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 72 (2): 243–86. http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.rice.edu/stable/10.5309/willmaryquar.72.2.0243.

Micheletti et al. 2020. "Genetic Consequences of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the Americas." The American Journal of Human Genetics, 107:2 (2020), 265-277. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2020.06.012

Pre-class Writing: Paragraph-long summaries of arguments in Zotero.

Special Guest DH Historian: Daniel Domingues da Silva

Design Studio: Source materials in Omeka and links to saved searches.

Week 7: March 12, 2021

Topic: The Slave Trade and Our Port Cities

Research:

Use SlaveVoyages to determine the aggregate slave trade to your port city. Consider:

Estimates for the trade as well as what the actual data shows.

Change over time

Places of embarkation in Africa

Mortality in the Middle Passage

As you work, save permalinks relevant to your research.

DH Assignment Due: Create a 5 slide presentation that presents the slave trade to your port city. Upload into Canvas your 5 slides preceded by a title slide, a one paragraph abstract of your findings, and additional bibliography slides, exported from Zotero.

In class everyone will present their findings.

Design Studio: What in your presentation would or would not fit into our Omeka site? What would it take to make it fit, and would it be worth the effort?

Week 8: March 19, 2021

Topic: Port Cities through the Eyes of Travelers

Reading:

- *The Cambridge History of Travel Literature,* available through Fondren
    - read the Introduction by Dias and Young and one chapter of your choice.
- Find a published account by a traveler to your port city. Skim your account for information, descriptions, bias, and three themes in your port city.
- Find a manuscript account by a traveler and read a section. Upload into Omeka for a transcribing exercise that we will do in class, and take notes on people who are mentioned in your manuscript.

Pre-class Writing: Zotero & Omeka entries.

Design Studio: Brainstorming pros and cons of digitizing and marking up traveller accounts.

Week 9: March 26, 2021 No Class

Week 10: April 2, 2021

Topic: Images of Port Cities

Research on your port city.

Pre-class Assignment: Seek images of your port city from digital databases.

Suggestions:

ArtStor: https://www-artstor-org (you will need to go in through Rice, Fondren Library and create an account)

John Carter Brown Library: https://jcblibrary.org/collection/digital-images

Bring one or two images that you will discuss in class.

Download images and upload to Omeka with scholarly citations & reconciling with Zotero.

Design Studio: Working with images: file storage, thumbnailing and tiling, image metadata.

Week 11: April 9, 2021

Topic: The Press in Port Cities

Reading: Find a newspaper from your port city and read it online. Select a theme to follow and tag your notes in Zotero; upload any pictures into Omeka.

Where to find historical newspapers:

In Fondren Library, go to **RESEARCH GUIDES—NEWSPAPERS—HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS.**

Be prepared to discuss the newspapers that you researched and what you found in class.

Design Studio: Optical Character Recognition.

Week 12: April 16, 2021

Topic: Life in the Port City

Reading: One of the books from one of the sections on the course bibliography:

Writing Component: Paragraph-long summaries of arguments of chapters in Zotero; tags; Continue to add named entities from reading to Omeka as appropriate and create links between entities within the site.

Be prepared to present your research strategy: the port city, the time, your research question, etc.

Design Studio: Special Collections and Zotero. How do they assist you as a writing tool? How could they be improved upon as interfaces/workflows?

Week 13: April 23, 2021

Topic: Research & Writing

Pre-class Bibliography Building: find the key books and articles on your theme and your port city. Add to Zotero. Export your bibliography from Zotero and upload into Canvas.

Pre-class Writing: Abstract for your final paper. One-page summary of the topic of your final paper. Upload into Canvas.

Class discussion: sharing and critique of abstracts and bibliography

Design Studio: Writing with Special Collections; Writing with Zotero; Suggestions for the App.

Week 14: April 03, 2021

Presentations--fifteen minutes each and class will likely go a bit longer than usual.

Writing: Rough Draft of your paper. Upload into Canvas.

Presentations in a multimedia format of your choice

Final Paper and Presentation Due: On or before May 12th 2021. Upload link into Canvas.

Final Research Paper. Upload into Canvas.

Topic: Select a port city in the Atlantic World and explore a social, economic, cultural, or political issue in this city that has trans-Atlantic implications.

Specifications: 5,000 words (approximately 15 double-spaced pages using one-inch margins with a 12-point Time New Roman font). Include property formatted footnotes or endnotes and a complete bibliography.

Presentation

Final version of multimedia presentation made available online